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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 31 December 1990 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express anguish and outrage at the indiscriminate shooting and killing of Palestinian civilians and the brutal repression by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian demonstrators.

On 29 December 1990, the Associated Press reported that Israeli troops shot and killed five Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip in what was described as the "bloodiest" clash in Gaza since last May. The New York Times reported on 30 December that the toll of wounded Palestinians in the previous day could reach as many as 250, more than 100 of them in Rajah refugee camp.

A day earlier, on 28 December 1990, the United Press International reported that three Palestinians, including a little child, were shot by unidentified gunmen near the Israeli settlement of Gush Etzion, north of Hebron.

On 26 December 1990, Agence France Presse reported that Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

According to a recent report of the DataBase Project on Palestinian Human Rights the latest killings have brought the number of Palestinians killed since the beginning of the intifadah to more than 900.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to condemn the indiscriminate killing and injuring of Palestinian demonstrators by the Israeli army, in its efforts to suppress the intifadah. These policies and practices once again confirm that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to violate its obligations under the Geneva

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Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and persistently disregards the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

The Committee wishes to stress once again the imperative need to provide effective protection for the Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory and to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Middle East conflict, through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/68 of 6 December 1990.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People